

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 21 are amended. Claims 5, 6, 16–19, 22 and 33–36 are canceled. Claims 1–4, 7–9, 21 and 23–26 remain pending for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office has stated that claims 5, 6 and 22 contain subject matter that is allowable if the claims were re-written in independent form. Each currently pending claim contains one or more of the limitations identified as allowable.

Claim Rejections Under §103

Claims 1–4, 7–9, 16, 21, 23–26, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,371,794 issued to Diffie, *et al.* (hereafter “Diffie”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,369,702 issued to Luckenbaugh (hereafter “Luckenbaugh”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 17–19 and 34–36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Diffie in view of Luckenbaugh and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6, 233,577 B1 issued to Ramasubramani. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation previously contained in claim 5, now canceled. Therefore, claim 1 is now allowable over the prior art.

Claims 2–4 and 7–9 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least by virtue of that dependency. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

Claims 21 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter previously contained in claim 22, now canceled. Therefore, claim 21 is allowable over the prior art.

Claims 23–26 depend from claim 21 and are allowable at least by virtue of that dependency. Accordingly, the rejections of these claims should also be withdrawn.

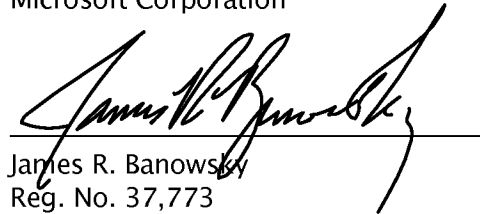
Claims 5, 6, 16–19, 22 and 33–36 have been canceled, thus rendering the rejection thereof moot.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early and forthright issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested. If any issues remain that prevent allowance of the present application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below or via the email address stated below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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